

Antonio Blasi  
Hancock  
LD 586

Here in Hancock, I, a sea kayak guide service operator, County Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor, and elected planning board member am testifying as a citizen. I am wary of Heartland LLC's (an out-of-state consultancy company looking for aquaculture development siting's in Maine) asking Maine and Company

<https://maineco.org/about-us/executive-board-members-of-the-corporation/> to list Hancock as a desirable location for industrial aquaculture in a published list in the Quietside Journal article "State peddling coastal towns to fish farms without local officials' knowledge." This added to the DEP's denial of a public hearing on American Aquafarms' wastewater treatment permit application is a slap in the face to our town regarding at least in-water finfish aquaculture. No wonder Hancock voted at town meeting to intervene in this most egregious threat to our water quality, habitat, and livelihoods in marine harvesting. Municipalities have Home Rule rights to regulate harvesting within their municipal boundaries. My neighbors welcome small farmers to develop under 10-acre sites in the water. LD 586 is sorely needed to begin correcting and averting the threat of unchecked industrial aquaculture development discharging into our pristine waters adjacent to Acadia National Park. I urge the Marine Resources Committee to reinsert in-water aquaculture to the bill, and vote Ought to Pass on it. Thank you.